

Application No. 09/670,884

2. (Amended) An article in accordance with claim 1, wherein a relative thickness of the disk is greater adjacent the particle outlet and lesser adjacent a periphery of the disk.

3. (Amended) An article in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a lip or rim adjacent to the concentric circular opening said lip having a thickness of from about 1.5 to about 5 times a relative thickness of the disk.

4. (Amended) An article in accordance with claim 1, wherein a diameter of the circular opening is nonadjustable.

5. (Amended) An article in accordance with claim 1, wherein a diameter of the circular opening is adjustable.

6. (Amended) An article in accordance with claim 1, wherein a diameter of the circular opening is from about 1 centimeter to about 10,000 centimeters.

7. (Amended) An article in accordance with claim 1, wherein a diameter of the disk is from about 10 centimeters to about 1,000 centimeters.

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10. (Twice Amended) A classifier wheel comprising:
an upper solid surface and a lower surface defining a first concentric circular opening therein;
a plurality of blade vanes connecting the upper surface to the lower surface and defining a peripheral edge of the upper and lower surfaces, and
an article comprising:
a disk defining a concentric circular opening; and
a fastener for concentrically attaching the disk to a particle outlet opening of said classifier wheel and wherein said article is fixed to the lower surface defining a second concentric circular opening within the first concentric circular opening and reduces a diameter of the first concentric circular opening.

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15. (Amended) A classifier wheel in accordance with claim 10, wherein the upper surface and the lower surface are inwardly curvilinear from about a peripheral edge of the wheel to about the center of the wheel.